

Message Text

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ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /031 W
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R 280800Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1588
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS MUSCAT 1225

BEIRUT FOR MR. BALL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU MU

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR OMANI AUB STUDENTS

1. OMANGOV HAS SEVEN STUDENTS UNDER AID-SPONSORED PROGRAM AT AUB. GIVEN WANING HOPES THAT UNIVERSITY WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN IN NEAR FUTURE, MINED OFFICIALS HERE ARE NOW TRYING TO COME UP WITH ALTERNATIVES.

2. ACCORDING TO MINED, ALL SEVEN OMANIS ARE READY TO ENTER THEIR SENIOR UNDERGRADUATE YEAR. FIELD OF STUDY ARE: GEOLOGY (1); AGRICULTURE (1); PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (2); AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (3). AT LEAST ONE STUDENT GOT OUT OF BEIRUT AND NOW IN DUBAI. OTHERS EXPECTED TO LEAVE IF AND AS CONDITIONS PERMIT.

3. FOR CAIRO: COULD EMBASSY INVESTIGATE (1) WHETHER AUC OFFERS MAJORS IN ALL FIELDS LISTED ABOVE (MINED UNDERSTANDS THERE IS NO DEGREE PROGRAM IN GEOLOGY); (2) WHAT CHANCES MIGHT BE FOR ENROLLMENT OF OMANI STUDENTS BEGINNING IN JANUARY; (3) DOES AUC GIVE FULL CREDIT TO AUB TRANSCRIPTS.

4. FOR WASHINGTON AND BEIRUT: SECOND RANKING ALTERNATIVE (TO AUC) OF MINED WOULD BE TO SEEK AFME ASSISTANCE IN PLACING THESE STUDENTS IN U.S. INSTITUTIONS. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO OMANIS THAT EITHER THIS OPTION OR THAT OF TRANSFER TO AUC
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LIKELY WOULD RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF AID SUPPORT. WOULD

APPRECIATE AID VIEWS ON THIS POINT. WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER AUB TRANSCRIPTS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE AT U.S. ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS. DAVID DAVIES OF AFME STAFF PARTICIPATED IN OCT. 28 DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER AND WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH AFME UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. FYI: OMAN-GOV WILLING TO PICK UP ENTIRE TAB IF AID CANNOT SPONSOR AT PLACES OTHER THAN AUB.

5. FOR BEIRUT: WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT STUDENTS NOT LIKELY TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE ANYWHERE BEFORE NEXT JANUARY, BY WHICH TIME AUB HOPEFULLY WILL AGAIN BE IN SESSION. MINED OFFICIALS AGREE AND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP OPTION OF RETURN TO AUB OPEN. IN EFFECT, THINKING ALONG LINES DESCRIBED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE IS IN NATURE OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING ONLY. SHOULD IT DEVELOP THAT TRANSFER IS DESIRABLE, WILL AUB TRANSCRIPTS BE AVAILABLE AT AN EARLY DATE?
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